

WINTER BREAK EDITION

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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From Pasta to Pianos

Mother's Club Spaghetti Supper Funds Student Needs

by Justin Hall
Sports Editor

Everyone knows the Spaghetti Supper generates a lot of spaghetti and a large amount of money. What happens to all of it after Homecoming? Most students know the spaghetti not consumed before the homecoming game is creatively

reserved in various forms over the next two weeks in the cafeteria. The greater mystery: Where does all the money go?

The Mother's Club, that masonesque society which meets regularly on the MBA campus, receives that money. Yet many young men on the hill know nothing about the role of the mother's

club. Most of them do not even realize their mothers are on campus regularly.

Headed by President Kim Bundy, the Mother's Club is an organization of mothers of current MBA students responsible for assorted events around the MBA campus. They coordinate and work receptions, support functions and fundraisers, including the MBA Carnival, the Mother/Son Breakfast, Commencement, and the Spaghetti Supper. The most important function of the Mother's Club, however, goes largely unnoticed and unrecognized by the student body.

The money raised by the Club's efforts in Kroger Cards, Sports Program Sales, the Used Book Sale, the Used Blazer Sale, and Spaghetti Supper is "absolutely phenomenal", says Mr. Steve

Rundberg, Jazz teacher at MBA. The money is given to teachers who request new materials to become better educators. All teachers may apply each and every year, and almost all, if not all, receive the money according to their request.

Mr. Rundberg and the Jazz Band received two brand new keyboards this year. "They replace the older, outdated keyboards and most certainly will improve the quality of the music program here", says Rundberg. "MBA is truly a better institution because of the Mother's Club."

The Mother's Club, however, doesn't help just the Jazz Band. Each and every department at MBA receives generous aid in purchasing items for

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Junior Michael Anderson plays new keyboard purchased by the Mothers' Club

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A Trivial Comedy for Serious People

by Chase Altenbern
Theatre Correspondent

Sometimes theater can become a strange kind of torture. While lying down under a sheet with a book over my face, in probably the most uncomfortable position imaginable, I waited for the start of the show each night while the audience came into Paschall Theater. Although this twenty minute period of trying to keep my body from moving was quite discomfiting, the pain endured was well worth the wait for the amazing opening sequence of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

The show opened with a band of goofy servants including Clayton Lainhart, Will Orman, Alex Martin, Garrett Anglin, Bennett Davidson, and Grace Douglas. This odd beginning to the show, which included dancing and umbrellas, brought to life the vision that Dr. Fuller had for this show. Various paintings by Rene Magritte, of which the most well known is "The Son of Man", the image of a man wearing a bowler hat with an apple over his face, were incorporated. This idea of the unknown identity of the man is the central aim for Dr. Fuller's use of Magritte in the show.

This is an appropriate theme as the play involves two men, Jack and Algernon, who are both mistaken to be the same person, Ernest.

The opening also showed to the audience that the servants are the ones who actually run the show and clean up after the flawed characters of the play.

The servants ended their number by removing the white sheets off the furniture that had been covered since before the doors were opened to the audience. However, what was under the sheets was even more fascinating. Suddenly revealed to the audience were three characters in the furniture

underneath the sheets. The furniture was the most fascinating of all, as it was not wooden pieces, or plush Victorian armchairs, but rather two gigantic pairs of red lips for a sofa and love seat, and two bright, apple green chairs with such curves that made them look as if they floated in the air.

The decision to bring this play based in the 19th century into the 1960s was a very important one. Wilde constantly mocks the hypocrisy of the aristocracy of England in his play and reveals the humor in the absurdities of the customs and practices of this fading generation. The same use of Wilde's language was applied in MBA's production to show the same events but to apply them to more recent events, when the new customs and ideas came into society while the old began to fade out. Most of the humor in Wilde's "Trivial Comedy for Serious People" revolves around this mockery of the obsolete absurdities of the old and the embracing of the revolutionary new.

However, without the utilization of the talents of some of MBA's most talented players, this comedy could not have been brought so vividly to life.



Ernest Nelson chats with Ernest Chase over cucumber sandwiches

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THE BELL RINGER

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As In the Days of Yore?

by Kevin Seitz
Editor-in-Chief

"Tradition." The word itself speaks of something nobly resolute in the chaos of change, time, and modernity. Traditions happen on their own. They have always happened, and they are not really up for questioning or change. But therein lies the problem. Traditions do not happen on their own. They are passed from one individual onto the next, and nothing carries on unless someone makes the effort to conserve what was passed onto them.

We here at MBA like to take pride in our traditions, our heritage, and everything that we're strong enough to conserve about the past. A release to prospective students last year said, beneath a heading of *Tradition*, "We have upheld many great traditions since we began in 1867, and we are proud of them all. But our most treasured is the one our students create each year – the MBA spirit."

We look to the Founders, to the bricks, and to the old MBA-way-of-life to give this institution meaning and the worth of decades. The rings we wear on our fingers are so cherished for all they represent: the continuity of our principles and the timeless character of this school.

Last summer, I was fortunate enough to spend three weeks at Winchester College, in England, a school unmatched for age in the entire UK. The buildings and the flint-cobbling of the

courtyard have been trodden for centuries upon centuries beneath the cathedrals built before Christopher Columbus had even thought about setting sail. They held an annual track competition, whose award goblets were engraved with names upon names of antiquity. The older boys treated the younger as their inferiors – ordering for glasses of water and menial chores. It was fine, though, because that's the way it has always been. It was justified by the past.

They held a formal dinner the last night as it had been held for countless generations. Tradition held that these senior boys would be allowed an "Hour of Grace" immediately following, in which they would not be held responsible for their deeds. It was the age that gave them pride, and they felt honored to walk in the same steps. Even there, though, modern opinions had reached in with their reforming tendrils, and that hour was now nearly non-existent, and hazing was rapidly falling out of favor. This whole tradition idea is one enormous paradox.

Our founding date pales in comparison to Winchester's, but, nevertheless, we try so hard to embrace, preserve, and be proud. Yet every year the complaints of what they could do the year before arise again and again.

Any poor treatment of freshmen has been virtually eliminated by the administration, and senior pranks have been all but removed completely.

Arguably, there is every right and reason to do so, but still, we as students are justified by "tradition", or are we merely whining about rights to which we have no entitlement?

Two years ago a race was begun in hopes to imitate the famous scene from *Chariots of Fire*. It is to be a community-building competition between the grades, in which the fastest from each must race one lap around the quad. It was the back door to creating a tradition, and students asked, "Is that allowed? Can they just declare something a tradition?" Indeed, it seemed like an injustice to the very idea. But then again, how else could a tradition start?

As I said before, nothing happens unless someone personally carries the flag, and that pushes the issue farther into obscurity. People do not act without their own motives, their own ideas, principles, and bias. We have our honorary fraternity of Totomoi, for instance, whose name holds so much power that graduates returning to MBA can distinctly remember both who was and who was not inducted. It stands as a pillar of weathered tradition. The concept is a ultimate judgment of students according to an ancient set of ideals. But one cannot forget that the small committee of members who votes is just that, a small committee of individuals who bring with them all those individual perspectives and convictions, and they are the ones who determine which path the tradition will take. The Totomoi pin gets its authority only from the respect of those of this community, and it was only four years ago that *The Bell Ringer*

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Mother's Club

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improving the quality of MBA. Calculators for various math classes, new novels in English classes, warm ups and various uniforms for sports teams, microscopes for science, and even the Junior School Media Day are provided for by grants from the Mother's Club. Every single teacher and student at MBA has benefited from the Mother's Club grant money. In all, they awarded teachers and coaches nearly \$100,000 for this school year. Maybe selling all those Spaghetti Supper tickets isn't such a bad thing.

After reading this, give your mom a big hug. Thank her for contributing to your school year and your education. After all, none of this would be possible without the time, effort, and devotion of our Mother's Club.

WRITE FOR THE BELL RINGER

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From the Freshmen

by Daniel Green
Staff Writer

The Freshman class has had another great few weeks in the realms of athletic, academic, and extra-curricular activities. In athletics, the 9th-grade basketball team has started the season off with two impressive road wins over Hillsboro High, 62-43, and Overton High, 61-40. The Big Red were led by great guard play from Spencer Wise, Patrick Crum, and Reggie Ford and powerhouse post play by Joseph Sloan and Owen Lipscomb. The Hillsboro game was especially interesting, as MBA had to rally from a five-point deficit at the half to defeat the Burros. A great but tough upcoming game is on December 9th when the Big Red travel to play their cross-city rivals and everyone's favorite team to boo, Father Ryan.

The Varsity hockey team has had great contributions from the freshmen. Against FRA, Bailey Brandon had a goal, and John Vorholt played very well and notched a shutout in his first game for MBA (Big Red wins 5-0). The next week the Big Red beat an always-good Hume Fogg team with a contribution from Bailey

Brandon with a goal. Crawford Standard notched his first goal in a Big Red victory over Page High School. John once again was able to slam the door with fantastic play in goal, getting his second shutout of the season against Overton High. Crawford also greatly contributed to the win with an impressive showing of two goals. The Big Red are 5-1 to date with their only loss coming from a very talented Hendersonville team.

The ninth grade wrestlers have had a great start to the season, going 3-0. Against Clarksville Northeast, pins were made by Davis Hunt, Reed Stanberry, Brian Barnes, Patrick Hallahan, Max Jerrell, John Floyd, Barrett Jacques and Scott Bubis, while Dent Shillinglaw and Aaron Barrett won by decision. A week later, the Big Red defeated Mt. Juliet (42-6) and Independence (39-18) and defended their home gym impressively. Davis Hunt, Brian Barnes, Max Jerrell, John Floyd, Reed Stanberry, Scott Bubis, Wesley Johnson, Aaron Barrett, Barrett Jacques, and Dent Shillinglaw all had pins.

Novice debate is having a successful year, as well. At the Homewood tournament in Birmingham, Sam Page and Rahul Sastry reached the finals and were the runner-up team in policy debate. In Lincoln Douglas debate, Daniel Green reached semifinals and took sixth speaker, while Connor Shope took third speaker.

Senior Class News

by Michael Marks
Staff Writer

Joseph Alexander and Hunter Armistead have been accepted by the University of Virginia. Jeffrey Zager was accepted into the University of Colorado at Boulder. Will Camarata was accepted into the University of Edinburgh in England. Wynne Barton was accepted into Auburn University. Nathan Deutsch was accepted into both Auburn University and the University of Dayton.

Andy Snyder received the Nick Coutras Award, an honor that recognizes "the senior-class high-school football player from the middle Tennessee area who best exemplifies the qualities of exceptional individual effort, superior attitude, dedication to team, academic, and athletic excellence and commitment to community service." The scholarship was awarded at a banquet at the Tennessee Titans' Stadium Club where Andy was chosen from a group of 7 impressive finalists from other Nashville schools.

On a somber note, the remains of Atmosfear, the wooly caterpillar that served as the class's mascot, were found in the first floor bathroom of Carter. Authorities sus-

pect that foul play was involved in the death. Please be on the watch for a teenage, male suspect who is stupid enough to eat a caterpillar for money. Atmosfear is survived by his mate and twenty thousand larvae.

The Senior Slide officially started for some, as last week Will Camarata missed the first 4 periods of school because he was having a fantastic time sleeping-in.

Among the other games banned from the senior room: Gotcha with a cardboard basketball goal, that ball-throwing game, and Johnson-Dockery robotic ninja fights.

In a heroic victory, Terrell "Fat-O" McWhirter defeated freshman Rhett "The Racer" Wallace in a glorious race of the backpacks. This win allows Terrell to reinforce his supremacy in the field of backpack races, as established by McWhirter's numerous victories over Jason Wallace. This win also proves the might of the Senior class over the freshmen.

Sophomore Stories

by Jay Milam
Staff Writer

The sophomores are finishing the first semester strongly. Tyler Ramsden was named first team all-state and first team all-metro in cross-country. Austin Branstetter placed second overall in a citywide statistics competition. Sophomores Rob Broadhurst, Chris Fike, and Clay Christain have helped the hockey team extend its record to 5-1. In wrestling, Ben Bartholomew placed first overall in the Black Horse Invitational Tournament in Memphis. William Davis represents the tenth graders as the only sophomore on the Varsity basketball team. Carlton Baker and Austin Bennett led the JV team to a close victory against MUS.

Garrett Anglin, Bennett Davidson, and Will Orman all did an excellent job acting in the play, "The Importance of Being Earnest." In debate news, Robert Awh and Alec Martin reached the quarterfinals at the prestigious Glenbrooks Tournament, and Andrew Snow and Mason Braswell made it to the semifinals at the Ohio Valley Invitational. An enthusiastic addition to the grade, Max Webster, continues his accomplishments by winning the Nashville Public Library Teen Film Festival with a silent film titled, "Oedipus Rex and the Riddle of the Sphinx!" Max says that he hopes it will be shown in assembly! No doubt about it, an impressive set of accomplishments for the class of 2008.



Senior Andy Snyder receives prestigious Coutras Award



Soup Kitchen volunteers: (from l to r) Juniors Jamie Fletcher, Cullen Brown, William Herbert, John Fontaine, and Senior Nick Anand

Junior Jargon

by Jackson Floyd
Staff Writer

This year the junior class has set an all-time record in poinsettiasales, selling over 1200 flowers. The junior class has also shone in the Fine Arts department. Juniors Chase Altenbern and Everette Barbee delivered stunning performances in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Junior trombonist John Fontaine was selected for the All-State Band and the All-Midstate Jazz Band. In sports news, juniors have also stepped up in the winter teams. In basketball, the juniors' success has played an integral role in many close games. David Smith nailed 6 straight free throws to contribute to a 16-7 run in the fourth quarter of MBA's exhibition game against White House. Charlie Plageman led MBA with 17 points and Sam Little added 11 in an outstanding effort against Mt. Juliet November 29. The hockey team has dominated so far through this season with the help of key juniors. Junior Zach Juskiewicz played a stellar game in goal Saturday, December 3rd; he was helped by juniors Rob Phipps and Brooks Jones who combined for three goals. The junior wrestlers have also started the season well with key plays in the Black Horse Invitational at Houston High in Memphis. Both John Michael Simpson and William Herbert placed 1st in their respective weight classes. The junior class has made a significant impact on the life at MBA during the last two months. Keep it up, fellas.

Avian Flu: New Plague, Bad News

by Jimmy Balser
Staff Writer

Every couple of years a certain virus, bacteria, parasite, or even fungus causes a great deal of concern. This year, scientists are frantically trying to create a vaccine for the terrible destroyer of man, H5N1 - better known as bird flu or the

avian flu. H5N1 is the particular strain of the virus that's got people worried. But the bird flu hasn't even been transferred from chickens to humans yet, so what's the big deal? Resident optimist of the MBA 9th grade, Hicks Woolwine, wonders exactly that. I asked Hicks if he planned on getting a flu shot for the avian flu. Hicks seemed doubtful that he would and commented that he doesn't spend much time outside anyway. Others around

campus had a more chicken (ha-ha) view than Hicks. Most people I asked seemed sure that the shot would save them from the inevitable oncoming wave of death. Strangely, there is a lot of truth in the pessimistic view. The bird flu's transmission to humans is inevitable. Most scientists agree it will switch over in the next year or two. Even scarier, it is likely that H5N1 will kill millions of people. The federal government is currently giving 4 billion dollars to the research and distribution of a vaccine. There is no vaccine yet, and no one is sure that the vaccine will be created by the time of the breakout. Cross your fingers that it will be ready; the United States has no way of keeping the bug out because of the constant movement of people coming in and out of the country. All we can do for now is put faith in modern medicine, time, and maybe some really big numbers.



The avian attack: So cute... so deadly.

Mr. Andrew Rosario Returns to MBA

by John Bibb
Staff Writer

He is most likely found sitting by a computer in a small workspace called "The Tune Room" located next to the Paschall Theater. His name is Andrew Rosario. Mr. Rosario, a native of Nashville, started his childhood as a home-school student. He then went to Eakin School, Saint Henry's, and finally settled at MBA in ninth grade. After graduation, he attended the University of Dallas.

He has worked in two different types of jobs prior to coming to MBA as a teacher. He was a "Subway sandwich artist" at age 14. After he graduated from college, he became self-employed, focusing mainly on video editing and freelance editing. At MBA, among other duties, he edits videos for Alumni Development and is currently working on the football team's season video. He also is head of the Video Club, in which students will be challenged to create original short films

and edit them. I say "will" because the video club has yet to have its first meeting due to a lack of supplies, which will be available for use in January.

Mr. Rosario enjoys football, track, and ultimate Frisbee. He listens to a variety of orchestral music, especially film soundtracks. He also listens to American Bluegrass and singers like Jack Johnson, Wilco, and Bee Speed. Two of his favorite film makers are John Hughes and Wes Anderson, and his favorite cinematographer is Ron Fricke.

Mr. Rosario has four goals: to work on one feature film, to live abroad for five years, to publish a book, and to teach a class (informal/formal). When asked of his opinion of the other faculty members here, he said that they are "more committed than the students will ever know." He holds a high opinion of the students at MBA, saying they "take care of each other... and (share) a brotherhood."



Mr. Rosario

Mr. Rosario's wide variety of interests in music and films is an example to all of us to extend our artistic horizons. He encourages anyone interested in filmmaking to consider joining the Video Club.

The Neglect of MBA's Smart Boards

by Alec McGuffey
Features Editor

If you've ever taken a math class at MBA (which you probably have), you may have wondered about those big white boards on the walls (not the dry-erase ones). Chances are, unless you have one of the few teachers on campus who actually uses these smart boards, you've never seen one of these technological feats in action.

Essentially, MBA has four types of boards: blackboards and dry-erase boards (no explanation needed), as well as Smart Boards, and School Pads. These latter two are a mystery to many of us, but having Mr. Elliott as a math teacher this year, I have slowly learned about these new-age teaching tools. The Smart Boards (made by Interwrite) are installed in most of the math rooms around campus, but it seems that hardly any teachers actually use them. The School Pads are easier to operate, and teachers can use them without so much as leaving their desks.

Essentially, the School Pad, made by Ibid, is a small dry erase board about the size of a laptop. Teachers use a stylus to write on the School Pad, and whatever the teacher writes on the School Pad comes up on the projector. Batteries need to be changed occasionally, and it takes a while to become 'school pad proficient,' but once your teachers do, their school year becomes much easier. Mr. Elliott tells me that he is comfortable using the School Pad, which he has had for about a year. I asked him if any teachers refuse to use either the Smart Board or School Pad, and he said he doesn't know of any, but that Dr. Gaffney and Mr. Compton are two other teachers who enjoy the advantages of the School Pad. It seems that the majority of teachers who don't use these devices prefer to teach the old-fashioned way, with markers or chalk in hand. They certainly have more control this way, but I have a feeling that within the next decade (at most), the trend will reverse, and School Pads and maybe even the Smart Boards will begin to catch on more and more. After all, who wants to protract a circle when it takes 5 seconds to insert one onto a blank page from the Options Menu?

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Fresh Start for the German Department: Mr. Jonathan Sawyer

by James Schuller
Staff Writer

One of MBA's newest additions to its faculty this year is Mr. Jonathan Sawyer, or mostly, to his German students, "Herr Sawyer." Hailing from Louisville, Kentucky, Mr. Sawyer first came to Nashville for college, spending four years at Vanderbilt; after spending a year in Germany, he returned to the United States and Nashville to teach.

Recently, Mr. Sawyer and I sat down for a discussion about his travels and education, to edify the readers of the Bell Ringer about the least popular of the four foreign languages taught at MBA and its new teacher.

Mr. Sawyer has been a student of the German language since the sixth grade, when he started studying it, primarily motivated by an interest in his own German ancestry, and perhaps, it might be conjectured, an interest in how to pronounce that funny B-shaped letter. Mr. Sawyer's maternal grandparents were of German heritage, and came to the United States after the second world war. He continued his study of German into college, motivated by an appreciation and interest in the culture of Germany.

Mr. Sawyer has visited Germany several times; he went first as part of a school trip after the 7th grade, through Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. He visited again as a freshman in college, and he spent this past year in the former East German city of Rostock, teaching in a small village 45 minutes away. Of the differences between German and American students, he says, American teenagers tend to be far more competitive about their grades, and with much different priorities. Whereas all the students of MBA are college-bound, under the German educational system, students may be instead headed for vocational or occupational training schools, and the difference in effect this has on the classroom is noticeable.

Among other things, Mr. Sawyer has learned how to pronounce such phonological monstrosities as "Immatrikulationsformulare" and "Vergangenheitsbewältigung;" he explored the latter, the concept of "coming to terms with the past" during his time in Germany. As a part of the Fulbright scholarship enabling him to go, he examined how the youth of today's Germany, especially in the former East, identify themselves in relationship to

Germany's "tainted" past. In general, he said, German youth tends to respect and remember the troubles of their country's history, but hold themselves apart, since neither they, nor their parents, were alive at the time.

By way of random information discovered in our interview, Mr. Sawyer is related to one of the principle inventors of the jet engine, and does not, in fact, speak enough Japanese to understand the question "Is it Sunday?" Unfortunately, "Nichiyoobi desuka" is not, as he guessed at first, Latin.

For those prospective students of German, be forewarned; as the interviewer can attest, few things are as tricky as the subtle nuances of time-manner-place word order or the two-way preposition (Bell Ringer Tip #1 For Two-Way Prepositions: Herr Sawyer says the verb/preposition combination "warten auf" will only take the dative when referring to the location of the action). But the benefits, according to our teacher, may well be worth the syntactical headaches; a large percentage of Americans share a German ancestry, and German is one of the most widely known languages in Europe. Germany remains one of America's largest trading partners and is important in the fields of business, law, science, and engineering.



Mr. Sawyer

Junior Class Sets Poinsettia Sales Record

From Staff Reports

On Friday, December 2nd, the small gym was abloom with that delightful seasonal plant, the poinsettia. A new record for sales was set again this year, with 1,240 plants being sold, outselling last year by about sixty plants.

Annually, the largest fund-raiser for our junior class holds is this poinsettia sale. The profit from this endeavor goes toward the cost of the prom.

Zack Adkins and Andrew Triggs were this year's chairmen of the event. These organizational geniuses mobilized about sixty of their classmates to deliver the beautiful plants to homes scattered around Davidson and Williamson counties. Within twenty-four hours the plants had been brought by the grower to MBA, had been arranged by order number and address, and picked-up or delivered.

The true force behind the yearly success of this massive undertaking is Mrs. Morrissey. Year after year she generously volunteers her time and energy to handle the orders and the countless checks which flood her desk in mid-November. The juniors are truly grateful for her help.

This poinsettia sale began in 1992, with about 300 plants sold. It has grown fourfold since then. This year's sales of 1,240 plants represents a gross income of about \$18,500. This project along with the sales of concessions during wrestling matches and basketball games ensures that the junior-senior prom will be paid for with no cost to any junior or senior.

The class of '07 thanks all who purchased their poinsettias from them this year.



Mr. Gaither and Mrs. Morrissey direct the enthusiastic Junior class

Irish singer
Maura
O'Connell
entertains MBA
assembly with
talk and song.



Los Banditos: Ultimately Ready

by David Reynolds
Staff Writer

After suffering through the frigid weather of late fall and through Coach Russ's endless drilling, the chemistry of the MBA Ultimate Frisbee has meshed and the team is ready to compete with the best talent from all over the country. Though some wondered whether the constant pounding of these repetitive and fatiguing drills actually improved their skills, the merciless regimen of Coach Russ guised as ultimate Frisbee did actually sharpen the proficiency of all the new and veteran players before the games began.

The team, loaded with experienced seniors in the starting seven and on the bench, figures to have Matt Smith and Wynne Barton gunning the long throws and "handler" responsibilities, Kevin Seitz and David Reynolds working in the offense by making shorter to midlevel cuts, and Tyler Moore, Ben Crownover, and newcomer Drew Andrews seizing all the glory with the deeper cuts and touchdown catches. Other valuable contributors to the team this year should include Jordan "T.O." Dockery who needs to overcome some attitude problem, Buck "Rage" Curley who looks to injure the other team's best players, Chase "Simon Ruben" Cato whose job it is to point out the other team's mistakes, David "Purple Drink" Buttrey who seems to lure the defenders to sleep with his smooth cuts, and Jeffrey "USN" Zager who still has untapped Jewish magi potential. These seniors, along with many other upperclassmen and underclassmen, provide the team with much needed depth and practicing dummies.

The season kicked off with a round robin format between USN, Hume-

Fogg, and Hillsboro on a day when freezing rain pelted down upon the Los Banditos. Eager to test its abilities against some of the top teams in the area, the Big Red were disappointed when both USN and Hillsboro pulled out due to the so called "unplayable" conditions. Hume-Fogg, however, threw down the gauntlet on the 42nd Avenue fields and challenged the machine that is MBA Ultimate. After warm-ups in which David Reynolds narrowly avoided future knee problems, the motley crew of the starting seven took the field and the game began with the warlike cry of "Ultimate!". This climatic moment of energy washed away quickly in the rain, but nevertheless the Los Banditos came away with an easy 15-0 victory against the overmatched opponent.

Even though the season has begun with a blowout victory, many challenges await the Ultimate team on its march to qualifying for nationals. Any and all support (such as fan presence) would be greatly appreciated, as announcements will be posted about games in the future. If you have any questions about ultimate or how it is played, these queries will be answered at these games, so please come watch the next great hope for a state title.

Bowling Team Spares No Opponent

by Hunter Kopald
Business Manager

Whoever said bowling wasn't a sport didn't know what he was talking about. What could be more intense? Imagine this: you need two strikes plus

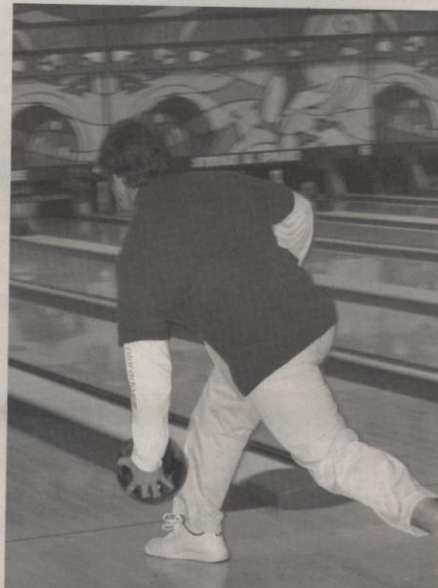
to clinch second place in the division and earn a bye in the Region Tournament.

After being pummeled by JPII in Hendersonville early on in the year, the Big Red squad rebounded with a convincing 16-point win at home in mid-November and followed it up this past

Thursday with a 17-point trouncing up North, 21-6. Denis Bermudez rolled the game-high 213 and Rand Woodson followed suit with consecutive 193s to help the Big Red Rollers knock down over 3000 pins and lock up the Region bye.

The team's only losses came at JPII early on and in three rather boring matches against Father Ryan. A secret source (whom I can name later, if you want) has hinted that the Fighting Irish used performance-enhancing drugs on each occasion. They were also granted leave from school by the Pope in order to hone their bowling skills.

But what makes the 2005-2006 Big Red Rollers so successful? Senior David Robinson contends that "As a team, we really know how to knock over the white pins with red necks." But sophomore Stud Rand Woodson has also played quite a role in the team's success. He's much better than sophomore sensation Tyler Ramsden. Along with Woodson, Robinson, Bermudez, and myself, sophomore James Michael and senior Michael Crum round out



Michael Crum goes for a strike

the starting six. Crum has been an exceptional first-year roller, posting the second highest average on the team in his frequent lead-off slot.

The biggest difference between this year's team and last year's Region Champs? "We eat a lot less," says Coach Carr, referring to former Roller David Bilhartz's outstanding ability to knock out more than just pins.

Unfortunately, student attendance reached an all-time low. In fact, if you are a student reading this article, there is roughly a 99.4% chance that you never came to a bowling match all year. If you're a senior reading this article, there is roughly a 45.4% chance that you said you would show up, but didn't. The seniors who did show up (and became better men because of it) were Andy Snyder, Andrew Warfield, and Pete Long-Innes.

On behalf of the MBA Bowling team, I would like to thank Commander Carr for leading us to the State Tournament once again. The State Tournament is January 28 in Smyrna, and we don't really expect any of you to be there. Thanks.

Well, it's not like that. In reality, the Big Red Rollers have gone about their business quietly, posting a final record of 14-4. The team had two matches against sleeper squad BGA and Catholic rival JPII



Big Red seniors paint-and-pizza party at Father Ryan basketball game

The Men in Red Tights, A Strong Start

by Justin Hall
Sports Editor

MBA wrestling is looking forward to and working towards possibly its strongest start in the program's history. The team returns eleven starters from last year's state-goers, including eight state medalists. Leading the team is a group of eleven talented seniors. A strong core of juniors, sophomores, and a large freshmen class fill out the team. A schedule loaded with home matches will hopefully draw a plethora of fans.

The Big Red have steamrolled their first three opponents: Stratford, Springfield, and White House. In the first double match against Springfield and Stratford, a number of JV and freshmen wrestlers contributed to a 44-26 victory over Springfield High School and a 35-12 win over Stratford High School. The MBA grapplers also dominated White House High School 48-6. The team plans to continue its dominating dual performance through the rest of the season.

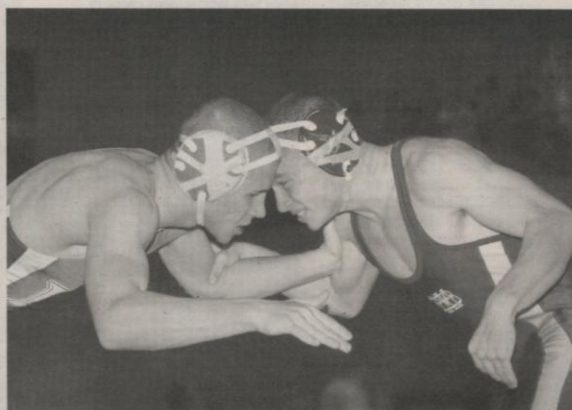
Yet perhaps the most outstanding accomplishment of this year's team was at the Black Horse Invitational in Memphis. The Friday and Saturday of December 3rd and 4th the fourteen starters faced tough competition

in this individual tournament and nearly came out on top. After a heated battle in the medal rounds, MBA had 12 of 14 wrestlers place. Champions were John Michael Simpson at 119 pounds, Ben Bellet at 145 pounds, William Herbert at 189 pounds, and Ben Bartholomew at 215 pounds. Brooks Tate took 2nd place to the Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament at 171 pounds. In the consolation finals, Allen Riley won 3rd place at heavyweight, Jeff Francis took 4th at 103 pounds, and Justin Hall took 4th at 152 pounds. Other placer winners were Mike Herron (5th) at 135 pounds, Wes McKeithan (5th) at 140 pounds, Elliott Sutter (7th) at 112 pounds, and Elliott Nelson (7th) at 160 pounds. The tournament was decided by 1/2 point, with Brother Martin of Louisiana, consistently a national top 25 team, placing ahead of MBA 257 to 256.5. These two teams were 75 points ahead of the third place team from Grissom, AL. The next closest in state team to MBA was Christian Brothers High School, who was a staggering 83 points behind the Big Red.

The wrestlers have a tough December ahead of them, including four different tournaments in the span of three weeks. They will hopefully have some hardware to present at the first assembly in January.

All in all, the team has opened the season with promise and passion. The wrestlers appreciate the already passionate fan support and hope it will continue throughout the season as matches become tougher and tougher.

There are six dates within Nashville that MBA will be wrestling in before the State Duals in February. Please get out to watch and be proud to cheer loud for the MBA wrestling team.



Senior Ben Bellet compares buzz cuts with his opponent

2005 - 2006 MBA Wrestling Schedule:

12/15/05 vs. Brentwood High School
12/28/05 MBA hosts a dual tournament
1/6&7/06 Father Ryan Invitational (all day)
1/10/06 vs. Brentwood Academy
1/26/06 vs. Pope John Paul II
1/29/06 at Father Ryan High School

Tradition

Continued from p.2

published a piece questioning the infallibility of its mystery, accusing the entire process of bias and injustice. History must be flawed for this reason; but still we try so hard to shroud it in glory.

Today, tradition, and propriety suddenly seem to be such an urgent concern. Perhaps rising from the dramatic changes of the last few years, the campaign demands we remember what "respect" and the word "gentleman" means. Every action of the school has been carefully considered for acceptability, analyzed how and whom it could potentially offend. Assembly speeches and responses are carefully reviewed and restricted by a looming haze of fear.

There is not a single tradition held by this school that is practiced solely by the students. Not one which would happen were a faculty member not assigned to orchestrate it on an annual basis, and ensure it stays well within its bounds. Is that not ironic with

everything which MBA stands for? Understandably, the constant student flux makes the continuation difficult, but still... Meanwhile, everything which could have stood by itself as unquestioned has slowly been picked apart by propriety, as athletes now must wear a shirt at all times, while it had been common practice for years of shirts v. skins. We are in the midst of a re-definition of what it means to move into the future and remain respectful of the past.

Thus, the actions of tradition, the events, and the names cannot ever be immune to change, no matter what we might hope. Time changes, memories fade, and this whole discussion could probably have been brought up countless times before. But it's still the students that define the place, and the words of the resolute ideals that provide only a map. These are the ambiguous weights borne by tradition. But, at what point can time take over as a justification?

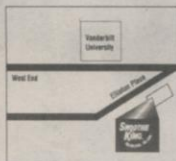
No longer can the phrase "That's the way it's always been" hold up in any discussion on this campus, but that's not the way it used to be. Right?

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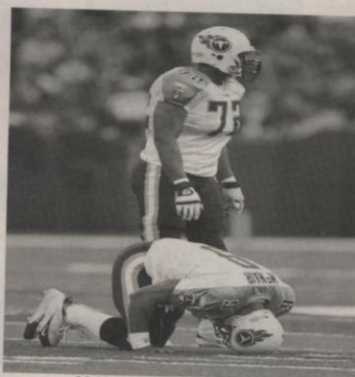
Titans: Losing and Going Nowhere Fast

by Davey Douglas
Staff Writer

At a little past the midseason mark, the Titans are 4-9 and not looking to make a big turn around anytime soon. The Titan's four victories have come against the dismal Ravens, Texans, 49ers, and a rematch with Houston (thank goodness for Houston). So far, the Titans have often been able to compete with teams for the first quarter, but then, just as often, the team has fallen apart. The offense sputters and dies, with Norm Chow's dink and dunk offense failing to generate much production, and the defense has been unable to stay fresh after being on the field three quarters of the game.

Norm Chow's coming to Nashville from USC was a highly-publicized signing, and the man who put QB's Phillip Rivers, Carson Palmer, and Matt Leinhardt in the national spotlight was supposed to return the Titan's dismal offense back to prominence. So far the Chow era has started off with less success than all hoped for and has come nowhere near generating the production his offenses at USC did. His schemes call for a heavy reliance on short passes to tight ends and running backs, which is why tight end Erion Kinney leads the team in catches. I'm not taking anything away from Kinney, a solid tight end, but you've got serious offensive problems when your tight ends and running backs are your leading pass catchers. Rookies Brandon Jones and Roydel Williams were

just coming into their own when this year started and were becoming favorite targets of field-general Steve McNair when both their seasons ended in successive weeks. Jones went down with



McNair and Titans in serious pain

a knee injury against San Francisco, while Williams was shelved for the season in the 35-3 trouncing the Titans received from the Colts.

The Titans also gave up a third-round draft pick to acquire Travis "Cheese" Henry in the off-season, in the hope that he and Chris Brown could present a formidable one-two offensive punch. Henry's stint thus far with the

Titans has fallen far short of expectations, and has many of the fans clamoring for the draft pick back. He suffered a turf toe injury in the preseason, then was slammed with a four game suspension for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy. His replacement, Walter Payton's son Jarrett, has filled in admirably, but the Titans' running attack has been as ferocious as a newborn kitten.

The Titan generating the most attention this year has been the number six overall pick, cornerback Adam "Pacman"

Jones, and he has found himself in the spotlight more for his off-field behavior than his performance on it. He was in multiple scrapes with the law in the off season, endearing himself to the Nashville fan base before even playing a snap. He also spent the duration of training camp in Jacksonville in a holdout, the longest any Titan or Oiler has ever missed due to a contract dispute.

He further endeared himself to fans and players alike by taking shots in the press at team leaders Keith Bulluck and Albert Haynesworth and attempting to compare Albert's holdout to his.

Haynesworth, however, only missed five days of camp, while Pacman was holed up with his agent for the whole time. When he finally suited up, he took the field to a resounding chorus of boos that only grew louder when he muffed several punts in the preseason.

Many fans believed Jones was the second best corner on the board, behind Antrell Rolle, and that the taller and

stronger younger brother of Samari would have been the wiser pick. A major factor for the Titans in choosing Jones over Rolle was Jones's value as a return man, but his performance in the first few games was uninspiring. He briefly lost his return job to Courtney Roby and Andrae Thurman, gaining it back only when he proved to Coach Jeff Fisher that he could actually hold on to the ball.

As the season progressed, Pacman became more comfortable as an NFL return man and showed his blazing speed on several returns. Finally settling into his role as a kick and punt returner, Jones now should have plenty of time to work on his coverage skills, as he has been roasted like a chestnut over an open fire almost every game. In a game against the Raiders, Pacman was responsible for two opposing teams' touchdowns, and almost gave up a third. Receivers are getting by Jones, which forces him to draw a pass interference flag in his attempts to slow them down. As a rookie he has not yet gotten comfortable with the system, and it shows. Titans fans have too often been treated to the sight of an opposing wide receiver celebrating a TD grab, with Pacman pouting in a corner, trying to find someone else to blame for the torching he just endured.

At 4-9 the Titans are one of the bottom five teams in the NFL and one of the teams still in the running for the services of Reggie Bush. Guaranteed to have at least a top 10 pick, and possibly a top 5, in next year's draft, the Titans should begin looking at the players occupying real estate on ESPN's Top 10 Plays in hopes of finding a spark to ignite the squad next year. The Titans of 2005 are nowhere close to the Titans of 1999 and 2000, and have found themselves unable to compete a full four quarters with the good teams in the NFL.

Earnest

Continued from p. 1

Senior Nelson Berry (Jack Worthing) and junior Chase Altenberg (Algernon Moncreiff) were able to show the complete opposites in their roles (Jack, being prim and proper, while Algy is a total mess) while simultaneously pretending to be the same person in order to win the affection of their two loves. When Algy learns of Jack's motives for coming up to town, under the name of Ernest, to win the affections of the young Gwendolen Fairfax (Anna Rose Heyman), he, in turn, goes down into the country, under the name of Ernest, to woo Jack's excessively pretty ward, Miss Cecily Cardew (Willa Fitzgerald).

The outcome of such a tangle of names and places turns to the worst for Jack and Algernon when the two young women meet. When both women realize they are both engaged to the same Mr. Ernest Worthing, their scene becomes a power struggle for one woman to show she is truly Ernest's love. Jack and Algernon both come in to find their women completely enraged, and the men find they no longer have either woman.

The rest of the play becomes a struggle for Jack and Algy to win back the affections of the women, while trying to ensure that Lady Bracknell (Lindsay Turner), the symbol of the fading aristocracy, will allow their marriages to take place.

The ending of the play wraps up the confusion of names in the play and shows that the play indeed is a trivial comedy. Jack's background is that he

was an orphan found in a handbag in a train and brought up by a kind gentleman to become a very wealthy and able young man. Jack's inability to identify where he came from becomes a constant struggle for him throughout

his life. The quirky ending of the play comes when Lady Bracknell sees Miss Prism (Whitney Edwards), Cecily's admirable guardian, at Jack's house in the country and identifies her as a woman that worked for her in earlier years, left from her home with a baby, and never came back. Prism explains that she had accidentally put her book in the perambulator, and the baby in her handbag. Jack is astounded to hear such wonderful news, consequently

finds that he is indeed Algy's elder brother, that his name truly is Ernest, and had been his entire life.

Such a complicated play could not have been done without the help of so many other people. Everette Barbee (Dr. Chasuble), William Schuller (Lane), and Garrett Anglin (Merriman) were able to bring comic relief to the audience through their hilarious antics and characters. The all star cast of technicians also made this play come to life from behind the curtains. Jim Flanagan, John Lee, Martin Wiecek, Will Camarata, Eric Hagemeyer, Vincent Camarata, Worth Baker, Michael Schuller, Nicholas Caprioli, Will Holt, Ben Gregory, Graham Coburn, Claire Moll, Nicole Kugel, Randy Bedrin, Michael Marks, and Caleb Coker all aided in the completion of the lights, sound, props, and set of this play to make the vision a reality.

The success of the play could be heard from the jubilation of the audience during the performances, and the wonderful feedback received from faculty and students. Young and old alike were able to understand and appreciate the fun being poked by Wilde. This play was undoubtedly another success in MBA's continuing excellence in its theater arts program.



Senior Nelson Berry and Anna Rose Heyman

Rocco's Take on *Just Friends*

by John Rocco
Entertainment Editor

(3.5 out of 4)

Starring Ryan Reynolds (*The Amityville Horror*, *Blade: Trinity*, *Van Wilder*), Amy Smart (*The Butterfly Effect*, *Road Trip*, *Varsity Blues*), Anna Faris (*Scary Movie Series*, *Lost in Translation*, *Waiting...*), and Chris Klein (*American Pie*, *Rollerball*, *We Were Soldiers*), this romantic comedy begins with an overweight high school senior named

Chris (Reynolds) who is best friends with an attractive schoolmate named Jamie (Smart), but he wants to be more than just friends. After an incident that leaves him sprinting from New Jersey, he gains a job at a recording studio and becomes a womanizer who won't let any woman get as close to him as Jamie. When he returns to New Jersey 10 years later, he meets Jamie again and reflects on his actions for the past few years. One of their old schoolmates, Dusty (Klein), interferes in their possible relationship, and Chris decides to use any means necessary in order to get Jamie. Although this movie

seems like another chick-flick, it is possibly one of the most hilarious movies I have seen in theaters for the past few months. There are only two problems with this movie. First, some of the circumstances in the movie could never

happen in real life. Second, Chris Klein is in the movie, and I am not a huge fan of his acting. He reminds me too much of Keanu Reeves. It's not one of those movies to see with your family, but it

definitely gets you in the Christmas spirit. *Just Friends* is not only a comedy, but also a movie that anyone who has ever had relationship troubles can relate to.



Rocco's Slightly-Twisted Top Ten Christmas Movies

10. Home Alone 2: Lost in New York
9. Badder Santa
8. A Charlie Brown Christmas
7. Die Hard
6. The Long Kiss Goodnight
5. Jingle All the Way
4. Silent Night, Deadly Night
3. Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas
2. Home Alone
1. Time Burton's The Night Before Christmas

Although some of these movies are not exactly focusing on the Christmas spirit, they all at least take place around the holiday season. I hope all of you have a Merry Christmas, and you should definitely check out a few of these movies over the break.

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That's Two!!

A Satirical Look at MBA's Disciplinary System

- Lions and Tigers and Beards, Oh My! -

by Clayton Lainhart
Staff Writer

Throughout the course of American history, there have been men who have led this great country who, despite their great deeds and chivalrous behavior, were not as great as everyone thought they were. This fact may come as a surprise to most people; however, if one were look at several pictures of these so-called "glorious" men, it is quite plain to see whereof I speak.

I'm talking about beards. All of these men are covered with facial hair. Just by looking at these men, one can instantly tell that they are rambunctious, rebellious, and must definitely not gentlemen. The monstrosities found on their mugs are so distracting that I can hardly write this article.

Although the actions of these men seem gentlemanly and righteous, if one examines their deeds closely, it is evident that their facial hair is concealing their inner evil. Robert E. Lee, an avid facial-hair advocate, started The Civil War. Abraham Lincoln, who sported the chin beard throughout his presidency, wore a funny hat. The list goes on: Einstein invented the atom bomb, Santa spoils young kids all over the world, and Dumbledore dabbles in the occult. All of these men are united in evilness by their facial hair.

Indeed, the presence of facial hair of all kinds on the MBA campus is becoming a growing problem. From beards to nasal hair, goatees to Fu Manchus, the MBA community is beginning to look like a rag-tag group of pirates. In fact, studies show that as facial hair growth increases, the urge to rape, pillage, raid, and loot is amplified exponentially in men under the age of 19. If MBA is to succeed in educating young boys how to grow up to be gentlemen, the existence of facial

fashion faux pas such as beards and mustaches must be brought to an end. The influence of the bearded men of history should be stopped. No more Robert E. Lees swaying the young men of MBA to think that a five-o' clock shadow is acceptable, and no more Kofi Annan

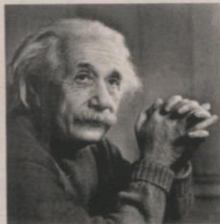
leading MBA students to show off their stubble.

The first step to rid MBA of this growing threat is to fire all teachers who have any facial hair at all. Their devilish example has been influencing the boys of MBA for too long. It has

even been a constant tradition for former MBA students to return with full beard in evidence. The teachers at MBA with beards and mustaches have obviously corrupted them.

The next step is to ban hair of all kinds from MBA's campus. Thankfully, Coach Carter and the swim team have already taken steps to remove most of their body hair. The rest of the student should follow their example. Once all bodily hair has been removed from MBA, perhaps true scholarship may take place.

Thankfully, the administration has already begun to pull students from class in order to send them home to shave. Most would agree that the student's time is better spent worrying about his outward look



Albert Einstein



Abraham Lincoln



The Great Professor Dumbledore

than learning. Indeed, the only way to tell a true gentleman is to examine his physical appearance.

With some determination and a modicum of force, soon MBA could be rid of its most devastating illness: not drinking, womanizing, or homophobia, but facial hair.



The Bell Ringer would like to wish everyone the cheeriest of Christmases, the happiest of Hanukahs, and a great Winter Break.

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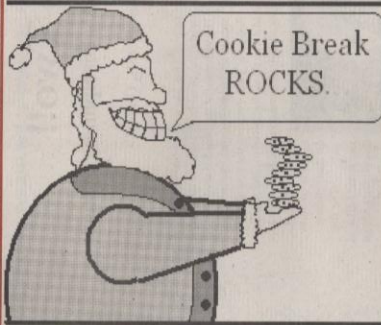
SANTA CLAUS: Senior at MBA

P.12

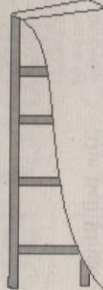
CARTOON BY CORTS

THE BELL RINGER DECEMBER 15, 2005

Kris Kringle is an average MBA student.



All I want for Christmas is... A SENIOR SLIDE.



a toy slide for the senior room, that is. hehe.

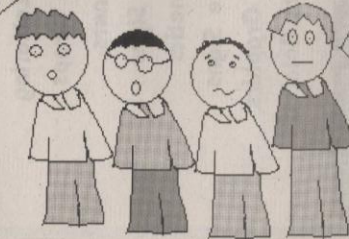


t.corts

Demerit List

Kringle, Kris	2	unshaven appearance
Kringle, Kris	2	unshaven appearance
Kringle, Kris	2	unshaven appearance
Kringle, Kris	2	wearing hat inside
Kringle, Kris	2	wearing hat inside
Kringle, Kris	25	attempting to employ microbes as "elves"

Hey! All 7th and 8th graders, you need to get pointy ears, pointy hats, little boots and hammers...and start making toys!



I guess we should do what he says...he's a senior.